909, ~~eleven~~ thirteen dollars higher than reported by the assayer in this case of this deposit of Tichenor, is a matter of astonishment and inexplicable only on the possibility that some of the pieces were counterfeits, the probability of which however is extremely remote as the Porter of the Merchants Bank from whom they were received is, by the first brokers in the City, considered most skilled in detecting counterfeit Coins.

93.

unfinished Letter of Mr. Bradford on subject of Casar affair. Dated April 25. 1839 –

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 93

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 93

U. S. B. Mint New Orleans
April 25th 1839

~~Jas. Maxwell Esqr.~~
~~Melter & Refiner~~

~~Sir~~

On the receipt of ~~your~~ a written Communication from the Melter and refiner = to me of the 23rd inst, in which it is = ~~you~~ requested that an investigation of the ~~Treasurers~~ books be made this morning in presence of all the Officers in regard to a certain deposite of Mexican dollars, said to have been melted, assayed &c, but which is not to be found", I stated to the Melter and Refiner = that I would have the investigation made as requested, but that not feeling well, and having allowed Mr. Dimitry the Clerk, the person directly interested in it most highly, to be absent that day, I would prefer ~~the next morning~~ that the investigation should be gone into the next morning. This wish of mine not being acceded to, I stepped to the Assayers Office and requested him to attend and assist at the proposed investigation which he declined. I immediately stated to the Melter & Refiner = ~~you and~~ the Treasurer and Coiner the Assayers determination and on its being urged by the ~~~~ Melter & Refiner ~~and~~ Coiner = to go into the investigation then = I remarked that all the officers were not present and adjourned the matter to the next day. The next morning I entered into the investigation, without requiring the other officers to attend. I found in the Weighing Book a Deposite entered in the name of Damian Casas No. 98 with its weight before and after being Melted. I also found the report of the Assayer on the same Deposit. I found a leaf had

had been removed from the weighing Book but not destroyed, the whole of it being produced, and Mr. Richard Parker, a Clerk who had only been in the Office   days, on being by me requested to state in writing the facts and circumstances in regard to the tearing a leaf from the weigh book, ~~that~~ informs me accordingly, that he "did it at the instance of the Chief Clerk Mr. Dimitry on or about the 22nd inst. He stated to me at the time that it was the intention of the Supt. to change ~~to change~~ the mode of melting in some way. I did not at the time understand the operation but have since learned that it was to reserve the small deposites until a considerable amount was collected, and there being several in at the time he said it would alter the numbers on the Book and he crossed out all the numbers and in doing so blotted the Book. He then told me to tear out the leaf and re-enter the Deposites which were on the leaf and at the same time to make the numbers correct as they should be which I did."

Very latterly the Treasurer finding it inconvenient and impracticable to supply the numerous applicants for change in small sums, adopted the course of requiring a deposite of at least one hundred dollars, and paying the same as soon as the value of the deposite was ascertained after the assayer had assayed it. The Melter and Refiner, after this course had been pursued a few days, suggested to the Superintendent that as these small deposites were generally in Mexican dollars, the quality of which might safely be assumed

at the average of such coins as had been assayed here, viz: 895; it would be best for the public interest, the expediting business and convenience of the Melter and Refiner and Assayer, that these small deposites should be retained by the Treasurer till they would make a full Melt or amount to about $2.000. This Mode the Supt. approved and directed the Treasurer and Clerk to pursue it. And I am now satisfied that, from not being sufficiently explicit in directing the small deposites to be kept by the Treasurer, ~~I see the embarrassment of the Clerk in regard to their numbers~~, till they should amt. to $2000 - having omitted to direct that they should be set down in the Weight Book and numbered ~~seriatim~~ successively as received; and their weight after Melting as required in proportion, the Clerks were lead to the inconsiderate act detailed by Mr. Parker.

On examining the Deposite No. 97. in the name of Ticknor = previous to the one in Question it is found to consist of three bars, from each of which an assay piece had been taken before this investigation was requested but not observed or I think it would have lead to an explanation of the difficulty in regard to the one in question No. 98. The numbers on these bars are 99 — 1, 99 — 1, and (100 out) 100 — 2 (the No. 99 in three places having been crossed out)

I requested the Assayer to reassay each bar, which he has done and reports that he is satisfied an error has occurred in the Casas deposite and that he had not assayed it. It is to be observed that in the Ticknor Deposit No. 97, there was two parcels, one of ham'd Dols, the other of French crowns. Now the general title or fineness of the latter

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 93

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93
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on subject of Coins
affair: Tabor
April 25. 1839 -